



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

"The Son of Man must be lifted up." John 3: 13

Friday, 13 September 2024

Dear Parent(s), carer(s) and students,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I do hope that everyone had a lovely summer and managed to find time with family and friends, and perhaps a holiday too.

I am already agast that we are two weeks into the new term, but time flies when we are having fun and there has certainly been a buzz around school this past 10 days. Students and staff have settled back in well. It is never easy when you have been away from something for more than 6 weeks and revisiting routines and expectations is essential to get back into the swing of things.

I had the privilege of welcoming back every Year from 7 to 11 in assemblies last Wednesday and Thursday, and once again I reminded them about our mission to always "strive to achieve our personal best", a good message is one that is worth repeating time and time again, and I made no apology for this.

I shared with them one of my inspirations from a summer of sport, more specifically the Paris 2024 Olympics. Armand Duplantis has now broken his own personal best, and therefore the world record, on at least 10 occasions, every time by only a cm or two. That dedication to be that little bit better every day, never satisfied with what we were before is, I hope, inspiration to us all that we can always be a little bit better, day in day out.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Semper Fidelis - Always faithful
Armand Duplantis

Pole Vaulter, 24 years old
Set his first age group world best at 7 years old
As an adult athlete he has broken the world record 10 times

Personal Best

PARIS 2024

hopeful, curious, wise, grateful, discerning, compassionate, active, mindful, generous, eloquent, diligent, attentive, faith-filled, generous, eloquent, diligent, attentive, faith-filled

Summer exam results

This was certainly true of our Year 11 and Year 13 classes of 2024 who stepped up in so many ways, not least by producing at Key Stage 4 some of the best, if not the best, results Hagley has ever had. We had the best results in English of all secondary schools in Worcestershire, with more than 9 in every 10 students achieving at least a standard pass (a C grade in old money). We had the second highest average attainment score with 80% of students gaining pass grades or higher in both English and Maths. There was so much to celebrate, and the students did themselves proud. The Year 11 class of 2024 was also the highest attending Year 11 in the previous 5 years so that strong correlation between good attendance and good outcomes is there for all to see.

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We also had some amazing outcomes from our Sixth Form cohort too. Students taking A levels on average got a grade B- while more than 20% of entries achieved at least AAB. Consequently, we have Hagley alumni off to some of the most prestigious universities and higher level apprenticeships. 80% of all students got their first choice University with 40% going to a Russell Group establishment. This year we had students also head off to Cambridge to study medicine, to Yale, Connecticut, USA and one student start a prestigious higher level apprenticeships at Jaguar Landrover having beaten 6000+ candidates to this position.

Exam Results...

- 26% achieved A* - A
- 52% achieved A* - B
- 85% achieved A* - C
- 20% secured AAB

Destinations...

- 80% secured their first choice University
- 40% secured a place at Russell Group Universities
- Yale University, University of Cambridge, Jaguar Land Rover



New Year 7

Of course, a significant part of this first fortnight has been ensuring our new Year 7's, the Class of 2029, get off on the right foot. They have been fabulous around school this week, keen and enthusiastic to get it right, find their classrooms and be their best.

An additional welcome to our new Year 7 parents and carers who are receiving this letter for the first time. I hope that your own nerves and trepidation has tempered over the last two weeks. Year 7 have settled into school life wonderfully well and already we are seeing the value they will bring to our Hagley family.

Social Media

We are trying very hard at the start of this year to use our social media platforms to keep everyone in touch with what is going on at Hagley on a day to day basis. You can follow us on Facebook at [@hagleyrc](https://www.facebook.com/hagleyrc) and on Instagram [@hagleycatholichighschool](https://www.instagram.com/hagleycatholichighschool). Please do give us follow and share our news far and wide.

Free School Meals

Please be aware that your child may qualify for additional support through the Free School Meal scheme and regardless of which area/authority you live in you can apply for this scheme via this link: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals

Please remember that if you do qualify but your child does not want the free meal it is important you still apply as extra funding comes to school to help us provide a better education for your child and all Hagley students.

Students in receipt of free school meals can also apply to school for financial support through our Pupil Premium Promise and you can find more details about this promise and the support we can offer at this link: [Hagley Catholic High School - Pupil Premium & Free School Meals \(hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk\)](https://www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk/hagley-catholic-high-school-pupil-premium-free-school-meals)

Uniform, standards and expectations

High standards of uniform and expectations has always been central to running a calm, ordered and safe school, where members of our family can come together unified by a common identity and set of expectations for all.

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone about some core uniform expectations for Year 7 to 11:

1. Girls skirts **must** not be rolled at the waistband but worn at all times as designed.
2. Piercings **can only be** worn in the ear, with a maximum of one small (4mm) plain stud in each lobe. Other facials piercings **must** be removed and **cannot** be concealed by plasters, **this is not negotiable**.
3. School shoes **must** be black leather shoes and **not** trainer type shoes with sports branding.
4. Coats **must** be plain black or navy and **not** branded

Thank you in advance of your support with this.

Attendance

We will continue to drive hard this year on ensuring absence is kept to an absolute minimum and respond accordingly to the Department of Education drive to return school attendance to, at least, pre-pandemic norms. I make no apology for this; the benefits of high attendance are there for everyone to see. There is strong correlation between GCSE and A Level outcomes and attendance. In Year 11 alone last year students whose attendance was above 95% averaged more than a grade higher than students with attendance below 90%. Students with above 95% attendance also averaged a grade 6 across all their subjects, while students below 90% averaged less than a 4. The contrast is stark.

It is not only outcomes that are affected by high attendance. Students who attend regularly have better mental health, they feel more included, sustain better relationships, are less isolated and engage more fully in extra-curricular opportunities.

Please support your child and us in doing everything you can to ensure they are in school and remember **“Good attendance means attending school on time, every day, unless too unwell to do so.”**

The Department for Education has published new guidance on school attendance that came into force on 19th August. You can read the guidance at this link: [Working together to improve school attendance](#)

Please be aware that absences that are not authorised, for example a holiday in term time, can lead to a penalty notice if a student has 10 or more unauthorised absences in a 10 week period. In addition, it is really important that appointments, where possible, are made outside of school times.

Open Day

We have launched our Open Morning for admissions in 2025 and the flyer below is now on our website, social media and has been sent out to all feeder primaries. If you know anyone interested in a Year 7 place for September 2025, please do let them know.



Transport (Buses)

The start of the new year has seen us embark on a new service with Endeavour Coaches. The coaches are excellent and a significant improvement on the past. I appreciate there has been a few teething problems as the new providers settle in to a new contract and new routes and I am grateful for your patience with them.

A message from AiP (School caterers)

At Alliance in Partnership we work hard to provide all of our schools with healthy, tasty and nutritious meals to ensure all of the students are able to complete their school days happy.

We would be grateful if parents/carers of children in Years 7 to 11 could please take 5 short minutes to complete the survey in the link below. On completion you may also be in with a chance to win a £10 love to shop voucher! <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/sjnTFgQvb4> A separate survey will be sent to the Sixth Form.

Your feedback is very important to us to ensure we continue to maintain quality, consistency and enjoyment for all students.

Staff Farewell

It seems very early in a new school year to be saying farewell to staff but over the next two weeks Mrs Taylor (Principal's PA) and Mrs Almond (HLTA) are off to new roles, although Mrs Taylor is remaining within Emmaus MAC. I would like to publicly thank them for their amazing work in their time at Hagley. They are fabulous

members of our support staff and have always added tremendous value to our work, they shall be very much missed.

Finally please be aware of some forthcoming events that are listed at the end of this letter and watch out for additional communications from us inviting you to these.

Wishing you all every blessing and a wonderful weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely

J Hodgson

Principal

Forthcoming Events and Calendared items

Autumn 1:

03.10.2024 - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (in school)

04.10.2024 - School closed

05.10.2024 - Open Morning (9 to 12.30pm)

17.10.2024 - Family Mass (Evening event in the school hall)

23.10.2024 - Sixth Form Taster Day and Open Evening

25.10.2024 - Break up for October half term